

Claims

1. A halogen-free process for cleaning food processing equipment, comprising contacting the equipment with a cyclic nitroxyl and a peracid or hydroperoxide reoxidator, or with a nitroxonium compound.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the reoxidator is a peracid or a salt thereof.
3. A process according to claim 2, wherein the peracid is peracetic acid.
4. A process according to claim 2, wherein the peracid is persulphuric acid.
5. A process according to any one of claims 2-4, wherein the peracid is produced in situ from hydrogen peroxide or from compounds releasing hydrogen peroxide.
6. A process according to any one of claims 2-4, wherein the peroxide is hydrogen peroxide in the presence of a metal complex or an oxidative enzyme.
7. A process according to any one of claims 2-6, wherein the reoxidator is used in an aqueous solution in a concentration of 25-2500 ppm.
8. A process according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the cyclic nitroxyl compound is 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO) or a 4-hydroxy-, 4-acyloxy- or 4-acylamino derivative thereof.
9. A process according to claim 1, wherein the nitroxonium compound has been prepared previously using a metal complex or an oxidative enzyme.
10. A process according to any one of claims 1-9, wherein the filter is a membrane filter.